

July 30, 2020

DISSEMINATION BY THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC

FARA registration #6344

As Covid-19 issues persist here and around the world, economic conditions in America's oil patch and in the manufacturing regions of Ukraine continue to worsen. The Livingston Group represents two entities extremely concerned about US/Ukrainian steel imports and the tariffs that have been placed on their ability to import Ukrainian steel pipe. North American Interpipe is a Texas-based importer of oil country tubular goods (OCTG) and line pipe used by the US energy sector. The oil industry has suffered greatly over the past year or so. The Section 232 tariff on steel imports has hurt their business from Ukraine so they would especially appreciate the inclusion of Ukraine on the list of suspensions from that section.

Thousands of US jobs including its employees, partnerships with pipe processors, and contracts with couplings/inspections/transportation companies, etc. Section 232 tariffs have compromised its ability to do business and fulfill contracts with business partners in the oil and gas industry throughout the US. The impact of COVID-19 on our economy has pushed the company and its employees further into crisis.

Ukrmetallurgprom, is a Ukrainian Steel Association. North American Interpipe's Ukrainian parent company, Interpipe, is a member of the association. Ukrmetallurgprom is interested in the advancement of bilateral trade between the US and Ukraine and especially in the removal of the "preventative duty on steel imports of 25 percent" as expressed by President Zelensky. In Ukraine, metallurgy currently accounts for 28 percent of manufacturing production and 300,000 industry employees. Interpipe directly provides 20,000 of these jobs in Ukraine. It remains a significant contributor to Ukraine's economic security despite the reduction of steel production since 2014 due to the loss of steelmaking facilities in the Donbass. The metallurgical industry and the entire Ukrainian economy are under constant pressure due to ongoing economic and territorial aggression by Russia.

Significant to the Ukrainian economy, the impact of these exports on the US economy is minimal. Currently, Ukrainian iron and steel imports account for around one percent of total imports. A positive trade agreement on Ukrainian steel imports to the United States is a natural next step in the US-Ukraine partnership. We would appreciate your assistance in encouraging State and USTR to actively dialogue with President Zelensky and his Administration to exempt Ukraine from steel tariffs.

THE LIVINGSTON GROUP, LLC PROVIDES REPRESENTATION FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF ENTERPRISES UKRMETALLURGPROM (A UKRAINIAN TRADE ASSOCIATION) IN ORDER TO ADVANCE THE BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND UKRAINE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.